

Council Bill No. 52 (2017)

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2018 JUN 26 PM 4:01

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Members of the City Council
City & Country of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
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RE: Written testimony opposing Council Bill No. 52 (2017)

I am writing in opposition to the proposed tax exemptions relating to historic homes in Hawaii.

These proposed changes seem to come up year after year, with the argument that the "rich need to pay their fair share" of taxes. My wife and I own a historic home and benefit from these exemptions, yet far from being rich. Our 880 square foot home sits on a 3400 square foot lot in Makiki and is valued at about what a median Oahu home cost. We maintain our home as a way to share and retain what's left of the architectural language of our neighborhood.

I am a partner of a small architectural firm (Welch and Weeks) and we work on a number of historic homes. If the council feels compelled to changing the rules (or consistently bringing new bills to the floor), we as a firm will not be able to recommend to our clients the benefits of retaining old homes...and preservation starts with the architectural community. Consistency is a must for us to sell the historic preservation exemption.

Please do not support Bill 52.

Aloha,

Victor Weeks